



Organizing Your 4-H Project Group

Project work allows 4-H volunteer leaders to teach and youth to learn new skills and gain new knowledge. Each project group should be organized in cooperation with the club's organizational leader. When planning your first project meetings, consider these ideas:

- Inform 4-H members about the project. At the monthly club meeting, get names and addresses of members and parents who are interested in participation.
- Encourage young people living in the area to select a project and join 4-H.
- Discuss the project with their parents.
- Invite 4-H'ers and their parents to the project organization meeting.
- At the meeting present outlines of what could be done, when and where the project group will meet and about how many meetings are planned.
- Ask a committee of parents and youth to help plan the project group meetings and activities.
- Ask parents to serve as leader helpers.
- Explain that the lessons covered at the project group meetings will be based on goals set by the 4-H members, parents and leaders.
- Discuss possible community projects, activities and tours.
- Discuss the number, time, place and frequency of meetings planned.
- Have each member tell what he/she plans to do and learn from the project.
- Present the first lesson for members to begin their project work.



- Discuss with the group and with each member what they will need to do before the next project meeting.

How often to meet

Meet as often as is necessary to complete the project. Many project groups meet once a week for 2 or 3 months until the projects are completed. Shorter projects usually involve the member building, making or repairing something. These projects should be completed quickly to maintain youth interest.

Other group project participants can meet twice a month for 4 or 5 months. Projects could focus on gardening, public speaking, horticulture or raising animals. Still other groups meet once or twice a month for a year or until the projects is completed. Example projects include animal raising or leadership.

The time that a project group begins and finishes its activities for the year depends on the plans and activities at the club and county levels. Individual clubs and/or counties. Projects usually are completed before they are exhibited.

Reference: This publication is an edited and updated version of the "Texas 4-H Leaders Handbook."

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